

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An absorbent article that includes longitudinally extending side extremities, an absorbent body disposed between a liquid-impermeable bottom sheet, which is intended to lie distal from a wearer in use, and a liquid-permeable upper sheet which is intended to lie proximal to a wearer, and either:

1) at least one longitudinally extending elastic liquid barrier on each side of a center line of the upper sheet, the barrier being made of an essentially liquid-impervious material and fastened to the upper or bottom sheet along or adjacent to a respective longitudinally extending side extremity of the article and having a free sealing edge facing towards a wearer, or

2) above the upper sheet, an essentially liquid-impermeable top sheet which is intended to lie against a wearer; and which includes elastic for shaping the article to a wearer's body, and includes apertures intended to lie in register with an anus and a urethra orifice of a wearer, around which apertures elastically puckered sealing edges are disposed in the top sheet;

wherein at least said sealing edge of 1) or said sealing edges of 2) are treated with a non-adhesive hydrophobic sealing medium which, in use, at least partly fills out any through-penetrating pores which are formed between said sealing edge of 1) or sealing edges of 2) and an abutment part of a wearer's skin, and/or which, when the article is donned, smears said abutment part of a wearer's skin and thereby increases a liquid-skin wetting angle.

8. (Currently amended) The absorbent article according to claim 7, wherein said sealing edge of 1) or said sealing edges of 2) are coated with said

sealing medium in an amount sufficient to both partly fill out any through-penetrating pores and to smear said abutment part of a wearer's skin.

9. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 7, wherein said sealing medium is applied in an amount corresponding to 0.1-100 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

10. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 9, wherein the amount corresponds to 1-30 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

11. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 9, wherein the amount corresponds to 2-20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

F1 12. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 9, wherein the amount corresponds to 3-10 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

13. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 7, wherein said sealing medium gives a wetting angle above 90°.

14. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 7, wherein said sealing medium gives a wetting angle above 95°.

15. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 7, wherein said sealing medium gives a wetting angle of at least 100°.

16. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 7, wherein said sealing medium has rheological properties such that said medium will be essentially rigid and viscous at room temperature and sufficiently fluid to smear said wearer's skin at body temperature.

17. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to Claim 7, wherein said sealing medium is an ointment that comprises fat or oil of animal, vegetable or petrochemical origin, or a water-in-oil emulsion.

18. (Currently amended) An absorbent article that includes longitudinally extending side extremities, an absorbent body disposed between a liquid-impermeable bottom sheet, which is intended to lie distal from a wearer in use, and a liquid-permeable upper sheet, which is intended to lie proximal to a wearer, and

FI at least one longitudinally extending elastic liquid barrier on each side of a center line of the upper sheet, the barrier being made of an essentially liquid-impervious material and fastened to the upper or bottom sheet along or adjacent to a respective longitudinally extending side extremity of the article and having a free sealing edge facing towards a wearer,

wherein at least said sealing edge is treated with a non-adhesive hydrophobic sealing medium which, in use, at least partly fills out any through-penetrating pores which are formed between said sealing edge and an abutment part of a wearer's skin, and/or which, when the article is donned, smears said abutment skin part and thereby increases a liquid-skin wetting angle.

19. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 18, wherein said sealing edge is coated with said sealing medium in an amount sufficient to both partly fill out any through-penetrating pores and to smear said abutment skin part.

20. (Currently amended) An absorbent article that includes longitudinally extending side extremities, an absorbent body disposed between a liquid-impermeable bottom sheet, which is intended to lie distal from a wearer in use, and a liquid-permeable upper sheet, which is intended to lie proximal to a wearer, and above the upper sheet, an essentially liquid-impermeable top sheet which is intended to lie against a wearer, and which includes elastic for shaping the article

to a wearer's body, and includes apertures intended to lie in register with an anus and a urethra orifice of a wearer, around which apertures elastically puckered sealing edges are disposed in the top sheet;

wherein at least said sealing edges are treated with a non-adhesive hydrophobic sealing medium which, in use, at least partly fills out any through-penetrating pores which may be formed between said sealing edges and an abutment part of a wearer's skin, and/or which, when the article is donned, smears said abutment skin part and thereby increases a liquid-skin wetting angle.

21. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 20, wherein said sealing edges are coated with said sealing medium in an amount sufficient to both partly fill out any through-penetrating pores and to smear said abutment skin part.

22. (Previously presented) An absorbent article that includes longitudinally extending side extremities, an absorbent body disposed between a liquid-impermeable bottom sheet, which is intended to lie distal from a wearer in use, and a liquid-permeable upper sheet, which is intended to lie proximal to a wearer, and

at least one longitudinally extending elastic liquid barrier on each side of a center line of the upper sheet, the barrier being made of an essentially liquid-impervious material and fastened to the upper or bottom sheet along or adjacent to a respective longitudinally extending side extremity of the article and having a free sealing edge facing towards a wearer,

wherein only said sealing edge is treated with a non-adhesive sealing medium which, in use, at least partly fills out any through-penetrating pores which are formed between said sealing edge and an abutment part of a wearer's skin, and/or which, when the article is donned, smears said abutment skin part and thereby increases a liquid-skin wetting angle.

23. (Previously presented) The absorbent article according to claim 22, wherein said sealing edge is coated with said sealing medium in an amount sufficient to both partly fill out any through-penetrating pores and to smear said abutment skin part.

F1 24. (Previously presented) An absorbent article that includes longitudinally extending side extremities, an absorbent body disposed between a liquid-impermeable bottom sheet, which is intended to lie distal from a wearer in use, and a liquid-permeable upper sheet, which is intended to lie proximal to a wearer, and above the upper sheet, an essentially liquid-impermeable top sheet which is intended to lie against a wearer, and which includes elastic for shaping the article to a wearer's body, and includes apertures intended to lie in register with an anus and a urethra orifice of a wearer, around which apertures elastically puckered sealing edges are disposed in the top sheet;

wherein only said sealing edges are treated with a non-adhesive sealing medium which, in use, at least partly fills out any through-penetrating pores which may be formed between said sealing edges and an abutment part of a wearer's skin, and/or which, when the article is donned, smears said abutment skin part and thereby increases a liquid-skin wetting angle.

25. (Previously presented) The absorbent article according to claim 24, wherein said sealing edges are coated with said sealing medium in an amount sufficient to both partly fill out any through-penetrating pores and to smear said abutment skin part.